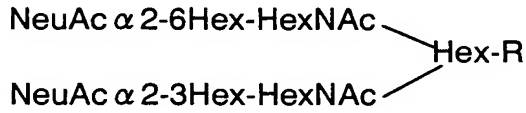
Claims

1. A novel branched sialo-sugar molecule characterized by being represented by the following formula (I):



(I)

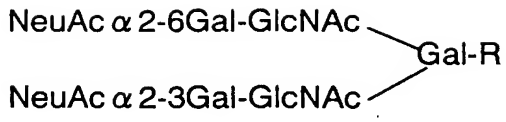
(wherein NeuAc represents *N*-acetylneuraminic acid in which the hydroxyl group, the carboxyl group and the amido group may be chemically modified with a halogen group, an alkyl group or an acyl group, either the same group or separate groups, Hex represents hexose, HexNAc represents *N*-acetylhexosamine and R represents a substrate selected from among a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon chain, a sugar chain, a lipid, a protein and a synthetic polymer, and R may have a substituent).

2. The novel branched sialo-sugar molecule according to claim 1, wherein the *N*-acetylneuraminic acid and hexose are linked by a natural O-glycoside linkage.

3. The novel branched sialo-sugar molecule according to claim 1, wherein the linkage between *N*-acetylneuraminic acid and hexose is a chemically converted linkage.

4. The novel branched sialo-sugar molecule according to claim 3, wherein the linkage form between *N*-acetylneuraminic acid and hexose is an S-glycoside linkage or a Se-glycoside linkage.

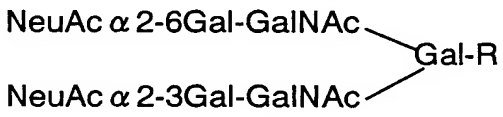
5. A novel branched sialo-sugar molecule characterized by being represented by the following formula (II):



(II)

(wherein NeuAc represents *N*-acetylneuraminic acid in which the hydroxyl group, the carboxyl group and the amido group may be chemically modified with a halogen group, an alkyl group or an acyl group, either the same group or separate groups, Gal represents galactose, GlcNAc represents *N*-acetylglucosamine and R represents a substrate selected from among a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon chain, a sugar chain, a lipid, a protein and a synthetic polymer, and R may have a substituent).

6. A novel branched sialo-sugar molecule characterized by being represented by the following formula (III):



(III)

(wherein NeuAc represents *N*-acetylneuraminic acid in which the hydroxyl group, the carboxyl group and the amido group may be chemically modified with a halogen group, an alkyl group or an acyl group, either the same group or separate groups, Gal represents galactose, GalNAc represents *N*-acetylgalactosamine and R represents a substrate selected from among a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon chain, a sugar chain, a lipid, a protein and a synthetic polymer, and R may have a substituent).

7. The novel branched sialo-sugar molecule according to either claim 5 or 6, wherein the *N*-acetylneuraminic acid and galactose are linked by a natural O-glycoside linkage.

8. The novel branched sialo-sugar molecule according to either claim 5 or 6, wherein the linkage between *N*-acetylneuraminic acid and galactose is a

chemically converted linkage.

9. The novel branched sialo-sugar molecule according to claim 8, wherein the linkage form between *N*-acetylneuraminic acid and galactose is an S-glycoside linkage or a Se-glycoside linkage.

10. An antiviral agent characterized by comprising at least the novel branched sialo-sugar molecule according to any one of claims 1 to 9 as an active ingredient.